

M 04/17 - Minutes of the monthly meeting of Johnston Community Council held on 10th April 2017 in Johnston Institute.

Present: Cllrs Neil James (Chair), Jeffries, (vice-Chair), Grey, Harvey, F. James, Pratt, Rowlands, Spilsbury, Warlow; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies : C'Ilr Young, Morgan.

The Chairman opened the final meeting of the current Council with thanks to all Members for the many accomplishments achieved during the previous five years.

8702 – Declarations of Interests

None

8703 – Resolution concerning agenda item for discussion of land opposite Johnston Institute

Due to the confidential nature of matters to be discussed, Members again resolved to hold this agenda item 'in camera' (proposer C'Ilr Neil James, seconder C'Ilr Pratt).

8704 – Public Forum (ten minutes maximum)

Louise Jones was present. She referred to the recently published newsletter, and the reference to £10,000 promised to the Village from the solar farm developers at Pope Hill. She queried what the money was going to be spent on. Members pointed out that no discussions had yet taken place on this subject, but that there would be full discussion within the Community when the money became available. On a separate matter, C'Ilr Harvey asked about the promise of a community benefit payment made by Lawrence Landfill. Members were in agreement that this needed to be chased up.

8705 – Minutes of March monthly meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, and signed by the Chairman (proposer C'Ilr Jeffries, seconder C'Ilr Pratt).

Matters arising

8706 - Solar farm adjacent to Pope Hill.

Nothing further had been heard from the developers. Clerk to follow this up, with regards to the promised Community benefit payment. Regarding Lawrence Landfill, C'Ilr Rowlands felt that a personal approach would be best, at least initially, and undertook to follow this matter up.

8707 – Narrow footpath by Johnston Farm.

Nothing further had been heard regarding this matter. C’Ilr Rowlands mentioned that he had spoken to P.C.C. officers, and also T.R.A. officers. However, he was not aware that any local landowners had yet been approached regarding the matter.

8708 – Bus shelter, Glebelands.

Neither shelter had yet been repaired, despite further contact by C’Ilr Rowlands. Clerk to write to P.C.C. regarding the matter. Name of contact in County Hall to be provided to the Clerk by C’Ilr Rowlands.

8709 – Cashpoint outside Nisa Shop.

Members were agreed that the junction was now much safer than before, which was to be welcomed. It only remained for white lining to be carried out at the junction, but it was not known for certain whether this would need to be done by the car park owners, or by the T.R.A.

8710 – New school, Langford Road.

C’Ilr Rowlands informed Members that he was still chasing up various issues in connection with the pedestrian access / approach routes to the school.

C’Ilr Pratt mentioned the crumbling of the tarmac at the side of the carriageway in the vicinity of the school, which had still not been addressed.

Lack of parking provision was also cited as a problem outside the new school. C’Ilr Rowlands mentioned that the current policy is to encourage walking to school, so large scale parking provision will not be made at this, or any other new school. It was mentioned that provision of a lollypop crossing had been requested. It was pointed out that any provision of this would be dependent on sufficient numbers of pupils walking to the school.

Regarding playing field provision, Members understood that the Hillcroft playing field would be offered for use by the school, though this was not completely certain.

The Chairman invited Ms. Louise Jones to comment on this agenda item, as she was employed at the school. She commented that there was problem with lack of playing field provision. However, she expressed concerns over potential safeguarding issues if the Hillcroft playing field was used.

C’Ilr Rowlands stated his intention to pursue a satisfactory solution to the problem of the playing field, if re-elected on May 4th. Members were very supportive of this, and felt that the matter should be kept under scrutiny.

8711 – Road and pavement problems.

Members noted that the Langford Road junction had been patched, but not to a high standard. C’Ilr Warlow also mentioned that there were now more similar problems further along Langford Road. She mentioned that the heavy tractors that would be using the road over the next few months would certainly worsen the problem. C’Ilr Rowlands undertook to follow up this matter again. He also mentioned that he had spoken to officers of P.C.C. about the parking issues in The Close, where inconsiderate parking was creating a problem for some residents.

8712 – Defibrillator provision.

C’Ilr Fran. James had received a £1350 cheque from Fairfield Nursing Home towards the defibrillator fund. Clerk to write a letter of thanks for this. It had also been suggested to C’Ilr James that, if a third defibrillator was to be purchased, it would be good to site it at the Football Field. C’Ilr Neil James agreed that this would be a good idea, and suggested the pavilion as a potentially suitable location.

C’Ilr Pratt informed Members that he had spoken to K. & O. Carpets regarding the location of a unit there. They had said they were very happy to leave it up to the Community Council to choose the exact location. Members felt that it would be best placed on the north-facing wall of the old school building.

Regarding the proposed siting of the defibrillator at the NISA store, Members felt that siting it on the side wall of the shop, about 6-7m from the front corner would be good, as there were lights and security cameras there. C’Ilr Fran James had passed to the Clerk the address for their headquarters. Clerk to write to them for formal permission to site the defibrillator.

A decision on purchasing units was deferred until the May meeting, due to the pre-election restrictions currently in place.

8713 – Discussion of possible cycle track provision.

C’Ilr Rowlands informed Members that he had been in discussion with various local cycle clubs, and also with officers in P.C.C. Further meetings were scheduled, and the matter was still in hand. C’Ilr Rowlands assured Members that he would be making all efforts to try and achieve progress.

C’Ilr Neil James mentioned to members that he had responded to the P.C.C. Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation. In his response, he had suggested that the route between Glebelands / Bulford Road leading towards Bolton Hill should be tarmacked for use as a cycle route, and also to prevent it from becoming potentially unusable.

C'Ilr Neil James had been asked about possible tarmacking of Cunnigar Lane. It had been explained that this route did not belong to the Community Council. While on the subject, C'Ilr Fran. James mentioned that reports had been received about rubbish again being dumped down Cunnigar Lane. C'Ilr Rowlands undertook to report this matter. C'Ilr Warlow mentioned the ongoing problem with the waterlogged grass area alongside the new roundabout, along the Milford Road, and lack of pavement provision. C'Ilr Rowlands mentioned that this had been brought up at the time of the development, but that the local residents along that side of the road had been unwilling to discuss any works to provide a footpath / cycle path on this area.

8714 - Risk Assessment.

Members were informed that the risk assessment had been completed, C'Ilr Neil James to retain this until after the elections, when the list of actions required would be considered.

On the matter of risk assessment, C'Ilr Fran. James mentioned the parking of vehicles on the football field. It was generally felt that this was the responsibility of the Sports Club to oversee and monitor.

C'Ilr Harvey mentioned the need for action to combat the potential problem of children jumping onto the roof of the bus shelter from the bank on the boundary of the playing field.

Matter to be placed on the May agenda for further discussion as necessary.

8715 - Map of Community

This was still in hand with C'Ilrs Neil James and Rowlands.

8716 – School Roll of honour plaque board.

Still in hand. C'Ilr Rowlands had been informed that the event at which the plaque would be unveiled would now probably be sometime in June.

8717 – Insurance matters.

C'Ilr Rowlands informed Members that there had been problems with the repairs to the acoustic barrier. He had been under the impression that the delay in carrying out the remedial works was due to financial constraints. However, it had transpired that the matter had been shelved by P.C.C. officers, due to a mistaken understanding that the Community Council had failed to agree to split the cost. This was not, however, the case. The Clerk had provided C'Ilr Rowlands with copies of the response sent to P.C.C. in June 2016, at which time formal agreement had been given for the work to go ahead. C'Ilr Rowlands had now forwarded these to P.C.C., and was hopeful that the work would soon be put in hand.

Once completed, it would be possible to look more closely at the best way of dealing with the insurance coverage of the playing fields generally.

C’Ilr Neil James mentioned the wooden panelling at the bottom of the field, between the playing field and the adjacent housing development. Questions had been raised about the responsibility for maintaining this. It was confirmed that the fence had been put up by the housing developers, Dawnus. At no time had the Community Council agreed to accept responsibility for this fence. C’Ilr Rowlands confirmed that he had a meeting scheduled with the C.E.O. of Dawnus, and would raise the matter for discussion. Members were concerned about the potential for long term issues over the maintenance of the fence, and felt that the matter needed to be clarified.

8718 – Mrs. Bassett, 20, Bulford Close.

Matter still in hand with C’Ilr Young.

8719 - Pope Hill Chapel graveyard.

C’Ilr Rowlands had heard nothing from the Probation Service. He undertook to chase this up again. In addition, Clerk to write a letter to the Probation Service regarding possible help to maintain the graveyard. Matter to be placed on May agenda for discussion.

8720 - Double Yellow lines by chip shop.

Proposed provision of double yellow lines was in hand and ongoing.

8721 – Highway outside Orchard Court.

C’Ilr Rowlands informed Members that the matter had been raised with the Highways department, and was in hand.

8722 - Narrow path opposite Howlin Motors.

C’Ilr Rowlands confirmed that this was currently with the T.R.A. for action. Despite assurances that it was in hand, and negotiations were also in hand, local affected residents had reported that no contact had yet been received from the T.R.A. regarding the matter.

8723 – Discussion of quarry-related problems.

C’Ilr Rowlands had spoken to the quarry management about the concerns raised by C’Ilr Wilkins. This was currently in hand with them. The arrangements for the forthcoming quarry visit were yet to be finalised.

8724 - Old school buildings.

C’Ilr Rowlands confirmed that the buildings were due to be boarded up for the time being. There was no intention to sell the site in the short term, due to low property prices. However, in time the intention was to sell it for use as infill residential development land.

8725 – Verge outside property on Langford Road.

Members were of the understanding that this had now been reinstated.

Planning

There were no planning-related matters for discussion.

Correspondence

8726 - Welsh Government – Response to letter regarding vegetation around bus shelter on Milford Road – noted. Members were content with the work undertaken.

8727 - Clerks & Councils Direct – Newsletter – passed to C’Ilr Rowlands for perusal.

8728 - P.C.C. – Notification of online publication of report into proposed changes to secondary education in Haverfordwest – noted.

8729 - P.C.C. – Consultation on proposed waiting restrictions at junction of Langford Road and main road – copies were circulated to Members for perusal. Members happy with proposals.

Accounts (including summary of 2016/17 accounts)

8730 - Payments

Norrard Electrics (Christmas tree lighting)	:	£623-52
West Wales Pest control (Mole control)	:	£456-00
P.C.C. (Repairs to swings at Johnston Play area)	:	£ 43-20
D. Banfield (bus shelter cleaning)	:	£ 60-00

8731 - Income

£1350 from Fairfield Nursing Home towards defibrillator fund.

8732 - Standing of accounts as of April 1st 2017

The Clerk presented the following provisional accounts to Members for the 2016/17 financial year :

Expenditure

Donations	:	£ 2090-00
Insurance	:	£ 1060-89
Previous Clerk	:	£ 300-77
Clerk	:	£ 2666-75
Clerk expenses	:	£ 113-19

HMRC	:	£ 720-07
Playground maintenance	:	£ 796-82
Village maintenance	:	£ 2116-00
Christmas	:	£ 577-52
Admin / subscriptions	:	£ 571-00
Miscellaneous	:	£ 452-62
Grass-cutting	:	£ 4940-00
Hall hire	:	£ 196-00
Total expenditure for year	:	<u>£16511-63</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Precept	:	£27000-00
VAT returned	:	£ 775-33
Bank charges repaid	:	£ 90-00
Total income for year	:	<u>£27865-33</u>
Net. Increase in funds over year	:	£11353-70
Balance brought forward to April 2016	:	£14790-46
Balance carried forward to April 2017 (unreconciled):		£26144-16

It was pointed out to Members that the income figures did not include donations received towards the defibrillator fund, and that all figures were provisional, depending on the final bank statements and other documents still to be received and assessed. Full accounts to be provided to the 2017 A.G.M.

The above items were approved by members (proposer C'llr Jeffries, seconder C'llr Fran. James).

8733 - Discussion of any necessary works at Close Field entrance

Members had been concerned at the potential for children running down the steps / slope straight onto the road. This had also been raised as an issue in the recent risk assessment carried out. C'llr Rowlands commented that the Community Council would be responsible for any works carried out on their land, and would need to be prepared to finance this. Members agreed that the matter should be discussed further in conjunction with the other matters raised in the risk assessment. The possibility of forming a sub-committee to examine the

options and make recommendations was also mentioned, but no decision was made on this.

[NOTE – at this point the meeting went into private session for discussion of the agenda item concerning land opposite Village institute]

8734 - Discussion of situation regarding parking area opposite the Village Institute

Members discussed the current situation regarding the forthcoming Land Tribunal hearing. It was resolved to request the appointment of a barrister to represent the Community Council at the hearing, at a likely cost of around £2,000 (proposer C'llr Grey, seconder C'llr Jeffries).

Any other business

8735 - Cycle path by Langford Road. C'llr Warlow mentioned that some decking sections had been replaced, though not to a very good standard of workmanship.

8736 - Bridge over railway track, Langford Road. C'llr Warlow expressed concern over the condition of the bridge, as some bricks were missing from the structure, and there seemed to be a continual flow of water coming from the bridge, even in dry weather.

8737 - Grass-cutting contract. C'llr Neil James mentioned that it had been agreed to keep the same prices as for the 2016 season, and use the Football Club again this year to carry out the work. Clerk to send out contract documents to the Football Club for completion. It was mentioned that next year a competitive tender would need to be arranged.

8738 – Outgoing council Members. On behalf of all present, the Chairman thanked C'llrs Harvey and Grey for their contribution to the activities of the Community Council over their years of membership.

The meeting closed at 8-35 pm.

Next scheduled meeting to be held on Monday 15th May 2017, to include the 2017 A.G.M.

Signed.....Chairman

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